



LOYAL HEIGHTS PLAYFIELD IMPROVEMENTS **PROJECT ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #2**

Monday, June 13, 2005

Loyal Heights Community Center

MEETING SUMMARY – DRAFT

PAT Members Present:

Royal Alley-Barnes	Paul Fuesel
Patrick Brake	Peter Goodall
Kelly Bryant	Kelly Jones
Ellen Butzel	Nancy Brown Toland
Dennis Cook	Andrew Westmark

PAT Members Absent: none

Other attendees: Cathy Tuttle, Parks Planner

Meeting Facilitator: Royal Alley-Barnes

Construction Schedule: Construction start: 3rd Quarter 2006

Welcome: The PAT sign-in sheet was circulated and signed.

Role of PAT: The overall role of the PAT, as directed by Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds, is to discuss the field's use and design and traffic and parking issues. The PAT members should report back to their constituent community as the park design progresses.

Previous Meeting Notes: Meeting summary from 6-1-05 was reviewed and approved with PAT member corrections.

PAT at 6-14-05 community meeting: PAT members agreed Dennis Cook would introduce PAT members at the 6-14-05 community meeting and members would be free to represent their constituencies at the meeting. Royal Alley-Barnes said the PAT members had no-gag rules.

Field Use:

Discussion

- Kelly Jones and Nancy Brown Toland asked for clarification for the purpose of the PAT and what we were producing. Royal Alley-Barnes said that the PAT will produce meeting minutes and that the PAT will not create any kind of recommendation document.
- Nancy Brown Toland introduced a 2-page proposal that was titled "Loyal Heights Playfield Parks Advisory Team (PAT) Proposal" that she said was a compromise between the athletic field users and neighbors for field improvements. The proposal suggested a mixture of part synthetic, and part grass field. The budget included in her proposal showed less cost for synthetic would permit field light replacement.
- Cathy Tuttle asked that the proposal be dated, marked "Draft," and labeled with Toland's name as it did not represent the whole PAT.
- Kelly Jones asked if Toland's proposal would have the same or higher maintenance costs as synthetic fields. She also wondered if the field could

be scheduled in winter months, and if it would present playability problems for soccer and football teams.

- Dennis Cook said the development of a grass/synthetic field in Capitol Hill (Bobby Morris) was not successful and was currently being replaced with an all-synthetic field.
- Royal Alley-Barnes said mixed synthetic-grass fields could not be used in the winter and would put pressure on the entire system. She said people are using parks more in the city in all seasons.
- Nancy Brown Toland asked if athletic fields generated revenue and if that revenue was returned to the field. She also asked if there was a cap on field use. She asked how much revenue the field generated for Parks. Royal Alley-Barnes stated that Parks only charges \$2 - \$3 an hour for use of the field. Nancy Brown Toland said that she thought it was closer to \$40 - \$50 an hour. Royal Alley-Barnes and Kelly Jones both agreed that it was \$2 to \$3/hour.
- Royal Alley-Barnes said that field revenue was put into the general fund and fields would be scheduled as they are now with priority given to youth and to games rather than adults and practices. She also said Parks was looking at more lag time between games. She said the challenge to Parks was connecting the athletic field to the community and balancing community, cost and field playability.
- Kelly Bryant wondered how much the Ballard leagues used Loyal Heights fields and how much the field was used by non-Ballard teams. Dennis Cook said all Ballard leagues need a place to play and were the main users of the field.
- Peter Goodall asked about the cost of maintaining Loyal Heights Playfield. Cathy Tuttle answered maintenance numbers are not broken down for specific site but that the estimate of the annual maintenance cost of a synthetic athletic field was around \$5,000 while the cost of annual renewal, daily lining, and maintaining a similarly sized grass field could range between \$40,000 and \$75,000.
- Nancy Brown Toland said the neighbors were trying to get a feel if the fields would be used from 8 A.M. through 10 P.M. Ellen Butzel, Kelly Bryant and Peter Goodall concurred.
- Dennis Cook said that current schedules would be how the fields were used in the future with synthetic. He said the field would not be used all day but would keep about the same schedule of late afternoon through evening play on weekdays and full day play on weekends.
- Ellen Butzel asked if Parks staff could provide specific hours of field operation. She also wanted to review an hourly summary from a field that had been grass and then converted to synthetic. Dennis Cook said synthetic field upgrades at Parks have included fields from year-round sand but not from grass fields so that there were no numbers to compare of field use between a grass and synthetic conversion. Cathy Tuttle said she would provide all PAT members with a printout of a year of field use hours at Loyal Heights.
- Kelly Jones said the PAT meeting was called to discuss design elements that would serve the community rather than debate whether the field was grass or synthetic. Nancy Brown Toland said the choice between grass or synthetic was the biggest design issue, other than upgrading the lights.

Design Options:

Cathy Tuttle introduced an unlabeled document from Park archives that listed

many community design issues that may have been discussed 10 years ago when Barker Landscape Architects worked on a community evaluation of the site.

Discussion

- Kelly Jones wanted to make sure there was not a portable pitching mound and wanted complete information about all fence heights and fence extensions. She wanted to make sure fence extensions could be raised and lowered so that neighbors' views from 22nd Ave NW would not be blocked if the proposed fence was permanent. She recommended a net using a pulley system of sorts that coaches could put up as the field was in use, then take down when finished. Cathy Tuttle said there would not be a portable pitching mound and that specific fencing proposals would be presented at the 6-14 community meeting. Nancy Brown Toland said that fence extensions were not a good idea because they would need to be raised when the field was being used for non-team practice.
- Peter Goodall wanted to know if the soccer field could be placed on a diagonal to minimize sun in players' eyes.
- PAT members discussed a number of synthetic fields that are or will be serving a mixture of sports including baseball, softball, soccer, football, men's and women's lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee. These fields include Shoreline, Blanchet, Sealth, Rainier Beach, Bobby Morris.
- Kelly Jones asked that any field configuration not impact the pitching mound.
- Patrick Brake said multiple lines could be confusing to players especially on the first day of play.
- Nancy Brown Toland asked about the concrete pad for vendors on the west side of the field and wanted to make sure any vendors were temporary. Cathy Tuttle said that all vendors would be temporary.
- Kelly Bryant wanted to make sure the Easter egg hunt could continue to be held on the synthetic field. Royal Alley-Barnes said the field could still be used for these and other community events.
- Paul Fuesel wanted to know if just soccer could be permanently striped while football could use temporary painted lines. Patrick Brake objected saying Ballard Junior Football had played at Loyal Heights for 42 years.
- Paul Fuesel focused on the community aspects of the design improvements. The south edge is sloped making the field less visible to neighboring houses. The east edge is also sloped but the neighbors look down the slope. The western edge has the strongest at-grade connection to the field. Paul asked what kind of entries or signs could be created to welcome the community into the field. He thought many design details could be neighborhood oriented.
- Nancy Brown Toland said signs would be facing directly into neighbors' homes and are inappropriate considering there were never signs facing out of the park before and there is no buffer between the park and the neighborhood homes. Royal Alley Barnes added Parks needs to be sensitive to visual blight and obey the Sign Ordinance.
- Kelly Jones said she wants people to see into the park for games. Royal Alley-Barnes said that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design studies would be done to enhance visual access at the site.
- Andrew Westmark said when he first looked at the site plan he thought the little symbols for trees were picnic tables and benches and he wondered if Parks could add these furnishings to the design. Royal Alley-Barnes added that the tables could have inlaid board games on them.
- Kelly Bryant wanted to know where the drinking fountain and kiosk would

be placed. She said the picnic tables were a great idea as long as they didn't go on the sledding slope. She also said she would prefer if Parks saved its money and didn't add site furnishings but put all extra money into improving the lights because new lights would do the most to satisfy the community.

- Patrick Brake asked why Pro Parks Levy money was not available to address all site improvements at one time.
- Nancy Brown Toland asked that fencing be open along 22nd NW because people had cut the fence to get field access mid-block.
- Patrick Brake asked if 10' fences were needed along the south end of the field. Peter Goodall said he had a ball collection to prove high fences were needed at this end of the field. PAT members discussed requiring restricted flight balls for league use on this field.
- Ellen Butzel suggested a 4' fence along 20th NW with staggered 30" openings _____. PAT members agreed that the more that the field was closed off by fences, the less the community would feel the field belongs to them and that providing multiple entries is important.
- Peter Goodall wondered if a small child play structure could go on the lower field so that parents with young and older children could watch both children at the same time.
- Kelly Bryant agreed a play activity could work and asked how this project could serve the children of the neighborhood. Ellen Butzel asked if improvements could be made on the existing playground.
- Kelly Bryant asked if there was enough room for a loop trail. Peter Goodall also thought a walking path around the athletic field would be an amenity for the community. Kelly Jones said Little League could donate a bench.
- Nancy Brown Toland said we should be thinking about what this project is giving back to the neighborhood. Andrew Westmark said the Loyal Heights community is bigger than the houses next to the field and that the field improvements are what the project is giving to the neighborhood. Nancy Brown Toland said that the field improvements are for the sports community, not the neighborhood. She said doing something to fix the lights would be giving back to the neighborhood and maintaining the park as a grass, open space shared between the sporting community and the neighborhood would be giving back to the neighborhood.
- Kelly Jones said the Challenge League could play on the field in wheelchairs if it had synthetic upgrades.

Next meeting:

- The group agreed to continue the discussion on June 22 from 7-8:30 PM with a focus on parking and traffic.
- A community meeting will be held on June 14 and the Park Board Hearing on the project will be held on July 14.

Handouts:

* Agenda, Nancy Brown Toland's proposal, list of community design ideas from Park archives, Sherwood file description of Loyal Heights Playfield.

Summary By:

Cathy Tuttle

Additional Information is Available:

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/loyalheightsplayfield.htm>
- Cathy Tuttle, Seattle Parks Planner, (206) 684-7033; cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov
- Royal Alley-Barnes, Parks Resources Manager and Athletics Coordinator, (206) 684-4561; royal.alley-barnes@seattle.gov